

Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium having computer-executable software code carried thereon for executing on a computing device for saving state for a semantically accessible state binding method, comprising:

a data structure comprising:

a first state frame including:

a representation of a first state of an executing program,

and

a second state frame including:

a representation of a second state of the executing program comprising state changes made by the executing program after the first state frame is created and the second state frame includes a pointer back to the first state frame;

a third state frame including a representation of state changes made by the executing program after a fork method creates the third state frame, and the third state frame includes a pointer back to the second frame;

wherein the executing program saves a first state of the program in the first state frame as a semantically accessible first state object, saves a second state of the program in the second state frame as a semantically accessible second state object, and then returns to the first state of the program by using the first state object;

wherein the third state frame is empty when created by the fork method; and

wherein, after the fork method creates the third state frame, value of a variable of the executing program can be accessed by checking, in backwards order that the frames were created, for the value of the variable in the respective frames.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim [[3]] 1 further comprising a fourth state frame which includes changes made by the executing program after the fork method creates the third state frame and after a set method returns the executing program to the state of the second state frame, and wherein the fourth state frame includes a pointer back to the second state frame.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 3 further comprising a joined state frame including a combination of state changes in the third and fourth state frames.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 3 wherein a first thread of the executing program makes state changes copied in the second state frame, and a second thread of the executing program makes state changes copied into the third state frame.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 1 wherein the second state frame includes unchanged state read from the first state frame.

7. (Previously Presented) A computerized method comprising:
receiving via an application programming interface a request to create a state save;
in response to the request, saving a first representation of a state of an executing program comprising copying state of the program required to return to the moment the state was saved as a first state frame;
creating a blank state frame with a backward link to the first state frame as a current state frame;
maintaining a second representation of subsequent state comprising changes made to the state of the executing program after the first representation in the current state frame;
in response to a request for value of a variable after the request to create a state save, checking for the value of the variable in the first state frame; and
changing the current state frame to the first state frame upon receiving a state set request at the application programming interface.

8. (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:
memory and a central processing unit executing,
a program including executable instructions and an evolving present state; a first state frame comprising an initial representation of a prior evolving present state of the program,

a state component comprising a representation of the first state frame as a programmer-accessible named object,
a second state frame comprising a subsequent representation of state changes made by the program since the initial representation,
the program including a method for returning the program state to the prior evolving present state using the state component; and
the program including a method for locating a value updated during the prior evolving present state and not present in the second state frame by following a back pointer from the second state frame to the first state frame, reading location value from the first state frame and storing the location value in the second state frame.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The computer system of claim 8, wherein the state component includes a fork method for maintaining state for a thread spawned by the program and a forked representation of state changes made by the spawned thread of the program.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the state component includes a join method for joining state changes made by the forked thread back into state changes of the subsequent representation.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium comprising computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 7.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A computerized method comprising computer executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

- receiving a request from a method, which takes as a parameter a state object, to create a saved state of an executing model;
- saving a first representation of a state of the executing model as a first state frame;
- saving a first representation of the state frame as the state object;
- creating a blank state frame with a backward link to the first state frame as a second state frame;
- maintaining, in the second state frame, a second representation of state changes made by the executing model after the first representation as the state changes occur; and
- reinstating the executing model state to the state of the first representation using the state object.

20. (Canceled)

21. - 29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 3 wherein the data structure further comprises a fifth state frame with a pointer to the fourth state frame, wherein the fourth state frame further comprises a reference pointer with a value indicating how many frames point back to it, and wherein if the value of the reference pointer is one, then the executing program combines the fourth state frame with the fifth state frame.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 3 wherein the fourth state frame includes a pointer to the third state frame.

32. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 7 further comprising writing the value of the variable in a cache in the current state frame.

33. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 32 further comprising a threshold size wherein when the cache is greater than the threshold size, the cache is purged.

34. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 32 further comprising a threshold size wherein when the cache is greater than the threshold size, the last used variable is overwritten.

35. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 19 further comprising:
receiving a request from a fork method which saves state of the executing program as a first state frame when invoked with the state object;
receiving a request from a set method which sets the state of the executing program to the first state when invoked with the state object; and
receiving a request from a join method which joins the current state of the executing program with the first state when invoked with the state object.

36. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 19 wherein the first frame and the second frame have a creation order.

37. (Previously Presented) The computerized method of claim 36 further comprising when a variable is accessed by the executing model, checking the state frames in opposite order to their creation order until an update for the variable is found.